From:	Olivia Meyerson
To:	Siddiqui, Sumbul
Subject:	Call for Transparency and an end to the Demonization of Israel
Date:	Friday, April 20, 2018 9:10:58 AM

Dear City Council Member E. Denise Simmons,

I am writing regarding the April 23 hearing and vote on Israel boycott. As a Cambridge resident, I am troubled by the lack of transparency and unfair singling out of Israel in this City Council Vote.

The Cambridge City Council should not abdicate its responsibilities to an interest group whose purpose is to demonize Israel. Any resolution of this kind deserves a full and fair public hearing, including inviting experts and interested parties to weigh in openly before action is taken.

Singling out Israel and HP, amongst all the nations, companies and conflicts in the world, and holding them to a unique ethical standard raises troubling issues about the Cambridge City Council. Thousands of American companies are working overseas and engaged in transactions that can be tied to questionable human rights practices; including numerous companies with Cambridge contacts.

In this instance, the Council is overlooking scores of other situations and electing to support dubious and largely unexamined claims against Israel made by an outside organization. If the Cambridge City Council elected to adopt a foreign policy that it applied without prejudice to nations and companies around the world, the issue of an ethical double standard would not be raised.

I hope you take my concerns into account.

Regards,
Olivia Meyerson
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